

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 098432
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 TRSE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /053 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:JETHYDEN:NHM
APPROVED BY ARA:WLUERS
ARA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER (DRAFT)
DOD/ISO:JLMAY (SUBSTANCE)
PM/ISO:JKIMBALL (SUBSTANCE)
-----302151Z 084359 /62
O 302135Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098432

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BF

SUBJECT: MILITARY FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS

REF: NASSAU 602

1. WE FEEL THAT AMBASSADOR HAS MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR TO
PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER THAT EMBASSY IS NOT
SOURCE OF LEAK. FURTHER EXCHANGE IN THIS CHANNEL DOES
NOT SEEM NECESSARY AND WE FEAR IT COULD FURTHER EXACERBATE
SITUATION.

2. WE RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL PROBLEM IF OPPOSITION POLITICIANS
SUCCEED IN AROUSING PUBLIC OPINION AND FORCING GCOB INTO
DEFENSIVE POSTURE. RATHER THAN ADDRESSING OUR CONCERNS
TO GCOB, IT WOULD SEEM TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE TO SET PUBLIC
RECORD STRAIGHT. REQUEST EMBASSY VIEWS ON USEFULNESS
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PAGE 02 STATE 098432

OF PUBLIC STATEMENT ALONG LINES PARA THREE. EMBASSY MAY WISH
TO DISCUSS STATEMENT WITH GCOB PRIOR TO ISSUANCE.

3. SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED STATEMENT:
-- AS NOTED IN RECENT TRIBUNE ARTICLES, THERE HAVE BEEN
DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES IN THE
BAHAMAS.

E DO NOT KNOW THE SOURCE OF THE TRIBUNE'S INFORMATION,
BUT, AS NOTED IN THOSE ARTICLES, IT WAS NOT THE AMERICAN
EMBASSY. IN THE INTEREST OF KEEPING THE RECORD STRAIGHT,
WE BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO BE IN ORDER.

-- FROM THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW, THESE DISCUSSIONS, WHICH
HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED, ARE PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY.

-- THIS MATTER IS NOT A POINT OF CONTENTION BETWEEN OUR
TWO GOVERNMENTS, AND U.S./BAHAMIAN RELATIONS ARE
EXCELLENT.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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